However, due to difficulties relating to taxation issues at State level and inconsistent availability of ethanol the programme was taken up in a phased manner. Further, due to continuous difficulties in sourcing ethanol consistently at reasonable prices, Gazette Notification No. 705(E) dated 27.10.2004 was issued. In terms of the notification, as long as the prices of ethanol are competitive and reasonable, and supply of ethanol is adequate, the oil marketing companies are statutorily required to lift the same and supply the ethanol blended petrol in notified areas. The areas which have been notified are the States of Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Andhra Pradesh (all districts except Chittoor and Nellore), Tamil Nadu (only districts Coimbatore, Dindigul, Erode, Kanyakumari, Nilgiri, Ramanathpuram, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, and Virudhunagar), and the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

The oil marketing companies have decided to invite tenders for procuring ethanol in terms of the Gazette notification dated 27.10.2004.

Subsidy on diesel to farmers

2011. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering of giving subsidy on diesel to farmers;

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken; and

(c) the amount of subsidy proposed to be given?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The issue regarding providing relief to farmers using diesel pump sets for irrigation is under examination of the Government.

Planting of Pongomia and Jatropha Trees

2012. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of successful experiment of